Senate Unit Sets Inquiry On Europe

Hearings to Probe U.S. Ties Abroad; Church Plans Trip

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By Bryce Nelson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold hearings on U.S. relations with Europe and is dispatching Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) on a major two-week fact-finding European tour, it was learned yesterday.

Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), has tentatively scheduled the hearings to begin about May 25. Church will leave April 30.

The hearings are expected to challenge Administration policy on Europe, just as the Committee hearings earlier this year challenged U.S. policy on Vietnam and Communist China. The Asia hearings resume today.

NATO to be Topic

Church confirmed yesterday that the Europe hearings will deal with a wide range of policy problems including the NATO crisis, prospects for a nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the possibility of a settlement in Central Europe and the question of German reunification.

The hearings are also likely to evolve into an examination of the whole area of U.S. Soviet relations.

Church hopes to visit Geneva, Paris, London, Bonn, Berlin and Moscow. He plans to meet with high government officials, opposition leaders, journalists and academic figures to assess opinion on current political problems.

Embassies to Help

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Under Secretary of State George Ball have told Church that United States embassies would give all possible assistance.

In addition, the Foreign Relations Committee has asked the Washington embassies of the concerned countries to provide help in making appointments for Church.

Church is scheduled to announce his European trip and issue a statement defining the tour's purpose in a news conference Tuesday. Yesterday, he said that he would make

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the tour with "no preformulated ipinions" about solutions to U.S. problems in Europe.

Church said that some of his fellow Committee members thought that the Foreign Relations Committee had not given adequate attention to Europe in the last five years.

"We have been distracted by various cries around the periphery of the world—Vietnam, the Dominican Republic," he said.

"Of all the areas of the world, Europe is the most crucial. The Vietnam tail has been wagging the whole diplomatic dog for too long a time."

House Also Concerned

There have been indications that policy problems in Europe are also of grave concern on the House side of Capitol Hill.

The House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe chaired by Rep. Edna F. Kelly (D-N.Y.), has been holding closed hearings on NATO this session. As in the case of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, some of the House Committee members are known to be sympathetic to some of the complaints of French President de Gaulle.

Another series of hearings on NATO has been announced by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations of the Government Operations Committee.

Jackson has announced that former Secretary of State Dean Acheson will lead off his subcommittee's hearings on April 26. The Jackson hearings are expected to be more sympathetic to the Administration's European policy than those planned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.